

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 066845

LIMDIS, FOR COURTNEY AND SCHNEIDER FROM KUX

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:TECH, IN

SUBJECT: TARAPUR: LAST-KIEFER CALCULATIONS

1. YOUR RESPONSE TO SETHNA WAS EXACTLY RIGHT AS HE WAS PLAYING GAMES WITH WHAT I SAID. ACTING DCM DIXIT TOLD ME A FEW DAYS BACK THAT THEY HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO DELIVER ANOTHER AIDE MEMOIRE ON TARAPUR BUT HE HAD DISSUADED THE AMBASSADOR FROM DOING SO. I SAID THAT THIS WAS SENSIBLE. FURTHER OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOI ON TARAPUR WOULD NOT MOVE MATTERS FORWARD AND THE INDIANS SHOULD LIE LOW AS NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN UNTIL THE OVERALL NUCLEAR REVIEW WAS FINISHED.

2. THIS OF COURSE IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS WE ASK SUCH AS THE FOLLOW-ON TO THE LAST-KIEFER REPORT (STATE 59887) PROMPTED BY GILINSKY'S QUERY. WE
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HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO PUT THIS QUESTION TO THE INDIANS. DUCKING THE QUESTION, WHICH IS NOT AN ILLEGITIMATE ONE, WOULD HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE. MY PERSONAL FEELING IS THAT THE TEN EXTRA WEEKS ARE PROBABLY NOT THAT IMPORTANT SINCE THE REAL QUESTION - ASSUMING WE STICK TO THE COURSE OUTLINED IN OUR DRAFT PAPER - IS OUR POLITICAL JUDGMENT OF HOW BEST TO PLAY THE SITUATION. ELECTIONS AND THE RESULTS

HAVE CONSIDERABLY EASED OUR TASK.

3. BUT PLEASE TELL ME IF THE INS READING ON NUCLEAR POLICY IS RIGHT. THAT IS THAT - ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF DESAI'S PRESS REMARK - WE BASICALLY DO NOT KNOW HOW THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL PLAY THE NUCLEAR QUESTION, A POINT OF VIEW WHICH SUPPORTS GOING AHEAD SHORTLY WITH THE INTERIM SHIPMENT BEFORE START OF NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS. IN ANY CASE, I SUSPECT THE NEW SPIRIT OF GOOD WILL TOWARD INDIA MAY EASE THINGS CONSIDERABLY AT THE NRC.

4. OUR CALL FOR FINAL CLEARANCE OF THE TARAPUR PAPER ELICITED A HOST OF CHANGES BUT HAVE NOT AFFECTED WHERE WE END UP, AT LEAST AT THE WORKING LEVEL. THERE WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE DRAFTING.
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